

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024558

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:ETRD, EEC, IR

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SUBJECT:EC TRADE RELATIONS WITH IRAN

REFS: A) EC BRUSSELS 897, B) BONN 1674

1. DURING CALL ON JAN 31 BY MAITLAND, FCO DEPUTY UNDER SECY AND CORTAZZI, ECONOMIC MINISTER EMBASSY WASHINGTON, UNDER SECY ROBINSON EXPRESSED TO THEM USG CONCERN OVER POSSIBILITY THAT EC AND IRAN MAY REACH AGREEMENT ON SPECIAL PREFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS. THESE WOULD BE, SAID ROBINSON, CONTRARY TO THE PRECEPTS OF THE IEA, TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE FORTH-COMING MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND TO THE EC (SOAMES) COMMITMENT.

2. MAITLAND SAID ALTHOUGH USG VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT WERE WELL KNOWN TO HMG, HE APPRECIATED ROBINSON'S UNDERSCORING OF THEM. HE DID NOT BELIEVE RAPID MOVEMENT ON THE EC-IRAN NEGOTIATIONS WOULD OCCUR IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, THE USG POINT-OF-VIEW IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY MHG, WHICH WILL KEEP IT VERY MUCH IN MIND WITH RESPECT TO THIS PROBLEM. KISSINGER

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